

II. Background

A. Population

Population Trends

The following table depicts the population of Selma over the past several decades.

TABLE 1
POPULATION FIGURES FOR THE TOWN OF SELMA²

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950 (%)</u>	<u>1960 (%)</u>	<u>1970 (%)</u>
Population	2,007	2,639 (30.5)	3,102 (17.6)	4,345 (40.5)

In reading the Selma Centennial Commission's publication entitled Selma, North Carolina, 1867-1967, one is led to believe that the 30.5 percent growth between 1940 and 1950 and the 17.6 percent figure of the next decade were almost exclusively due to an influx of new residents and more births. The rather large annexation of the Griggs Mill area in the late 1960s was the major factor creating the substantial increase in the population by 1970, though certainly the site chosen by Sylvania Electric Corporation contributed to some of this growth as some workers bought or rented in Selma. The 1975 estimated population of 4,500 has been due to natural increases.

Population Characteristics

Again relying upon U. S. Bureau of the Census figures, the below tables depict the age, race, and sex characteristics of the town population over the years: